

EXHIBIT 16  
DATE 11/8/11  
HB 173

House Bill 173  
January 18, 2011  
Presented by Dave Risley  
House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Wildlife Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to provide information about House Bill 173.

HB173 prohibits the FWP Commission from prohibiting the use of a lighted nock on an arrow while big game hunting. To allow the use of a lighted nock on arrows isn't a biological or resource issue – it really is a social issue. This is a social issue that will have widely varying opinions among archers.

The FWP Commission, through their rule-making processes, considers social issues like this along with biological issues when setting season types and season structure. Through the fwp Commission process, ideas about potential season structure and season regulations, including methods of take, are solicited from the public as part of the biennial season-setting process (scoping), and if proposed, public comment on proposed rules is solicited and considered before a final rule is made. We have not specifically taken public comment on this issue, so we cannot address the amount of support or opposition among our bow hunters.